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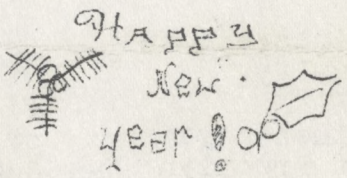
SPARK PLUG

Vol.23, No.3 BROOKLYN HIGH SCHOOL OF AUTOMOTIVE TRADES December 1962

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



The school year is almost half over and it is time we all took stock of our progress. If you are passing, you are half way to completing the year successfully. If you are not doing too well, now is the time to pick up in your work before it is too late. Too many of us still believe that you can let a term's work slide, until just before the final examination and then expect to study overnight and pass. Unfortunately, even if you did pass the final and had failed in your work all term, your average would be failing.

On Open School Night I spoke to many of the parents and invited them to form a new PTA. Many did. A PTA can help improve a school, and obtain better shops and more materials to upgrade our courses. If your parent did not know about this, ask him (or her) to let me know by letter if he (or she) is interested in joining. We hope to have our first meeting soon.

Louis Auerbach
Principal

JANUARY 1963

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Let us take
A little vow,
Since it is
The New Year now---
To be more kind,
More brave, more gay
This year and each
Single day that come
A model New Year'S
Day!

---M. C. Davies

URGE YOUR PARENTS TO RESPOND TO MR. AUERBACH'S CALL...USE THIS LETTER

Mr. Louis Auerbach, Principal
Brooklyn H. S. of Automotive Trades

Dear Mr. Auerbach:

I wish to join the Brooklyn Automotive PTA. I have ____ have not ___ been a PTA member before. I would like to work with a group or committee engaged in curriculum____, program____, community relations__ membership recruitment___, or other_____activities.

Yours truly,

Sign:_____

RETURN THIS LETTER TO YOUR OFFICIAL TEACHER WHEN COMPLETED. WHICH CLASS CAN GATHER THE LARGEST NUMBER OF SIGNED LETTERS ? ?

THE SPARK PLUG
"To further advance interest in school and community."

Published seven times a year by the students of Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades, 50 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn 22, New York.

MR. LOUIS AUERBACH, Principal.

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EDITORS: Ellis Rackoff and Jacob Tabak
Reporters: Bill Istchenko, Benny Johnson, Paul Stendardi, Harold Williams, Dennis Bessey, and Jose Perez.
Faculty Adviser: Mr. C. Jackson.

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"TO A TEEN-AGER"

At a PTA meeting in Manasses Park, Virginia, L. D. Harris, chief of police of the Prince William County community distributed the following "Open Letter to a Teen-Ager":

Always we hear the plaintive cry of the teen-agers: "What can we do? Where can we go?"

The answer is...Go home.

Hang the storm windows, paint the woodwork. Rake the leaves. Mow the lawn. Shovel the walk. Wash the car. Learn to cook. Scrub some floors. Repair the sink. Build a boat. Get a job.

Help the minister, priest, or rabbi, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army. Visit the sick. Assist the poor. Study your lessons. And then when you are through---and not tired---read a book.

Your parents do not owe you entertainment. Your community does not owe you recreation facilities. The world does not owe you a living. You owe the world something. You owe it your time and energy and your talents so that no one will be at war or in poverty, or sick, or lonely again.

In plain, simple words: Grow up; quit being a crybaby; get out of your dream world...start acting like a man or woman.

----Quoted in The Wall Street Journal.

AUTOMOTIVE'S PTA REVIVED

As the Principal's letter indicates, a PTA is in the process of being formed at Automotive. Our last such organization was approximately 15 years ago. It is anticipated, however, that in three or four years we will have a large and effective PTA.

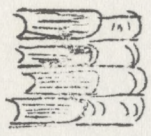
On Open School night about 40 or 50 parents submitted the brief questionnaires circulated among those who attended. This is the embryo of what is sure to become one of the most dynamic and constructive parents' group in the city.

Our principal has great plans for the growth and development of the school. One way in which parents may encourage and facilitate such improvement is through the support and assistance which a PTA can render. Every student who wants the school to grow should request one or both of his parents to submit the letter at the bottom of page 1 of this paper.

Some of the things envisaged in Automotive's not too distant future are (1) a library to seat 175 pupils, (2) more shops, (3)a fourth floor(4)modernized equipment, and (5) expanded and improved student facilities, including a photographic dark-room, some form of printed newspaper, and editorial quarters for the SPARK PLUG.

---Peter De Santis

Books



NEW WORKS IN OUR LIBRARY

A DISCOURSE ON CHESS METHOD

Winning Chess Openings, by Fred Reinfeld (Hanover House. 281 pp. $3.95)

Many a player, including your reviewer, has found to his keen disappointment that learning the fundamentals of chess is N O T enough to win games.

I have dissipated entire week-ends studying openings---poring over "good" books on the subject, and looking up expert opinion---only to have Mr. Meyer devastate my well-laid plans the following monday by refusing to play book moves!

The basic premise of Winning Chess Openings is that "Learning is based on understanding, not on memorizing." (P. 10). By "understanding", Mr. Reinfeld means an awareness by the player of the underlying "normal formation" of every opening he plays. That is to say, the player who "understands" knows not only the mechanics or moves which form an opening, but comprehends fully how to take advantage of any deviation from the normal---or "book"---placement of forces. He knows that the strategic objective of any opening sequence is a specific ideal position, and he is able to associate opening moves with a mental image of the desired pattern. Thus in discussing "the ten opening lessons that make up the heart of this book, we build up our analysis around the basic idea of the opening---the Normal Formation of each opening and the ways of exploiting deviations from the Normal Position." (Pp. 11-12).

Openings treated are Ruy Lopez, Sicilian Defense, French Defense, Caro-Kann Defense, Queen's Gambit Declined, Colle System (a P-Q4 technique named for the man who popularized it back in the 1930's), Alekhine's Defense, Nimzoindian Defense, Gruenfeld Defense, and Dutch Defense.

Perhaps because of a temperamental predisposition I found the Ruy Lopez the most interesting and stimulating. The Ruy Lopez, named for the Spanish bishop Ruy Lopez de Segura, who is said to have played it in a tournament in Madrid in 1566, is a positional opening, involving long-range planning and intricate maneuvering of the forces.

In his detailed analysis of the Ruy Lopez as well as in all of the others, Reinfeld employs from time to time the excellent pedagogical technique of presenting a well developed middle game, then urging the reader to infer the opening which it represents.

This is an excellent book, and our Library has my unstinted praise for having chosen it to add to their already distinguished chess collection.

Reading this book failed to teach me how to beat Mr. Meyer, but after reading it I am at least able to ascertain why he always beats me.

-Robert Bassemir.

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BOB CRADDOCK BRINGS CHESS PRIZE TO AUTOMOTIVE.

Robert Craddock, 3V7, our entrant in the Interscholastic Chess Tournament recently concluded, brought home the bacon. Bob admits that he encountered very difficult opponents in practically every one of the twelve matches he played. But perseverance paid off, and now he looks back on the Tournament as a magnificent experience.

---Dennis Bessey, 3V4

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SHARE YOUR READING JOYS...JOIN OUR BOOK REVIEW STAFF!

"OLD SPARK" REKINDLED AT AUROMOTIVE

The "Old Spark" is Automotive's Explorer post. For those who don't know, Explorers is the older boys' branch of the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouts and explorers are dedicated to the woods and the great outdoors. The Explorers at Automotive, however,will be dedicated to the open highway---or throughway. The first project of our post is to build a car that will resemble something out of the 1900's.

Messrs Auerbach, Tedford, Peck, and Koppel are Committeemen for our post.

Student officers are: Al Reincke, President; John Gerety, Vice President; Barry Gerenstein, Secretary; and, John Livigni, Treasurer.

The Explorers will also sponsor this year's car show.

---Al Reincke, 7V27

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LEONARD WU APPEARS ON "YOUTH WANTS TO KNOW"

We don't know his Nielsen rating, but the concensus of opinion at Automotive is that Leonard Wu acquitted himself nobly when he appeared on the New York Times program,"Youth Wants to Know," moderated by Mrs. Dorothy Gordon. Let us hope that example becomes infectios, and that more of our budding intellectuals will emblazon Automotive on other frontiers of the mind.

---Ellis Rackoff

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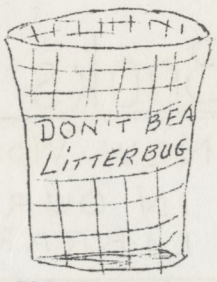

LET'S KEEP THE SCHOOL CLEAN, TOO.....!

On Tuesday, December 11, Mr. Patrick Rowan, Sanitary Education Representative from the Department od Sanitation, visited our school. Mr. Rowan led a very enlightening and interesting discussion on various aspects of keeping New York City clean, as well as some keen observations about the Sanitation Department's career opportunities.

An educational cartoon supplemented Mr. Rowan's discussion.

---Jacob Tabak

WE ARE GROWING....

The Office reports that applications for admission to Automotive in February outnumber last September's by approximately 125.

It was also reported that extensive plans are underway for streamlining service in the Lunchroom. It is expected that new procedures to be introduced shortly will not only expedite service, but will also provide a more congenial and relaxed atmosphere.

The SPARK PLUG is also in for some innovations. Mr. Auerbach is aiding us in finding ways to improve the paper.

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Mr. Tarakajian has consented to publication of of the following letter:

Dear Mr. Tarakajian:

I wish to express my deepest appreciation for your excellent cooperation and for the outstanding cooperation from your school towards a better United States Air Force.

Sergeant Juan Soto-Incle, my recruiter at 250 Graham Ave., Brooklyn, has praised your interest in a strong aerospace team.

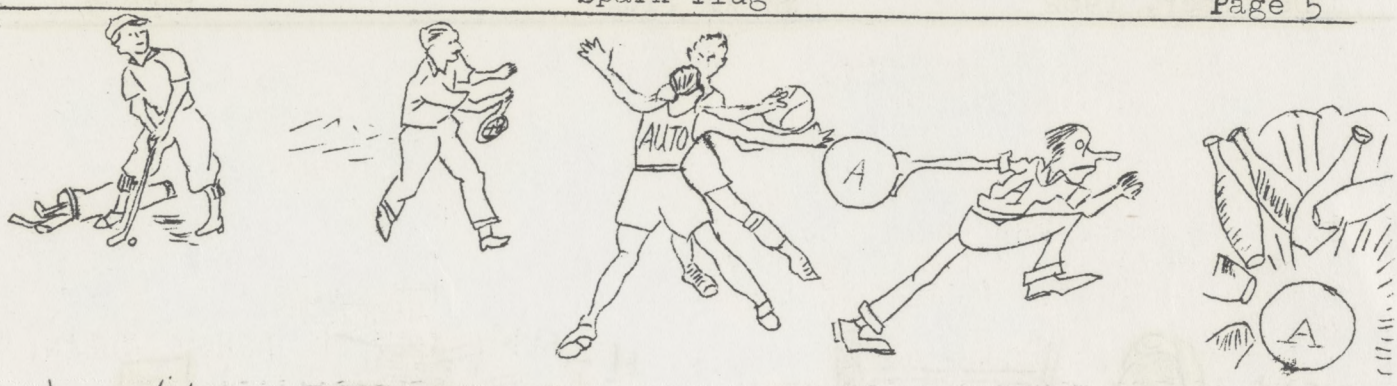
Listed below are the June 1962 graduates from your school selected by this office as members of the Automotive School Flight:

AIRMEN 3RD. CLASS JOSE ESCAPA, ERNEST GRANT, LEONARD R. JACOB, RUDOLFO SABIO, and ERROL V. SMITH.

Wishing you and your family Seasons Greetings from the men and women of the United States Air Force.

Sincerely,

Stevens Keller
Lt. Col, USAF Commander



WE TOPPLE GRADY!

CHARLEY WILLIAMS (19 POINTS), JIMMY TILLMAN (18 POINTS), AND CHRIS RICHARDS (18 POINTS) COMBINE TO KNOCK GRADY OUT OF 1ST.

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When the Grady team entered the Automotive gym Thursday afternoon, January 3rd, they were tied for first place in the PSAL, with a season record of 6 and 0. But when they departed a couple of hours later, they were in second place and had had a 6 and 1 record! We beat them 70-64.

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Piston season thus far, however, has not been an easy one. They lost their first game to Alexander Hamilton, on December 4th, 55-51. Eastern District overwhelmed them 83-47. They had their first sweet savor of success in a squeaker over Westinghouse, 66-62. However, Thomas Edison "clobbered" them, 88-56. In the fifth game our boys regained their winning waya, defeating Queens Vocational 85-68. The win over Grady in game 7 leaves us with a record of 3 and 4 for the season.

-Joseph Fodera, 7V29

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TRACK TEAM PARTICIPATES IN BISHOP LOUGHLIN MEET.

On Saturday, December 15th, the Automotive track team went to the Ninth Annual Bishop Loughlin Track Meet.

Some of our fellows did well. Craig Garretson took third in the novice high jump. Although Garretson has jumped 6' 2", he was able to do no better than 5'11" at the meet. Our novice 880 team: L. Wilson, V7; W. Jones, V27; R. Peterson, V7; and, A. Burns, V17 took first in their heat with a 20 yard lead on the second place team.

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Our mile relay team took 2nd place in their heat. This team consists of G. Parhan, V30; W. White, V22; D. Clark, V26; and, A. Callendar, V27,---who ran an outstanding quarter mile as anchor.

The next meet will be held sometime in January. The team looks good; from all indications it will be able to add a trophy or two to our collection by the end of the season.

--Bennie Johnson, 5V20

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BOWLING TEAM IN 4TH PLACE

The Automotive keglers wound up another season comfortably entrenched in the league's first division at fourth place.

Team members are: Danny Dannenberg and Robert Poach, Co-Captains; Robert Peterson, V29; John Holford, V22; George Tompkins, V3; Fred Cutrone, V17; Dennis Bessey, V4; Peter Scolaro, V29; Tonani, V2; Vecchiano, V5; and, Passaretti, V7. These fellows gave Coach Cimino a spirited and aggressive team.

--Dennis Bessey, 3V4.

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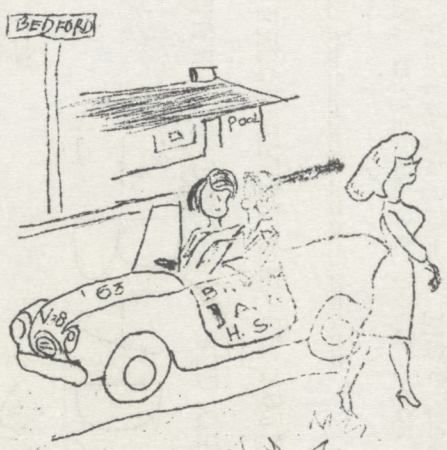
ANNUAL XMAS SHOW

The faculty and student body were given a gala send-off on Friday, December 21st, by Mr. Lacey, the School Band, and an abundance of school talent. Especially outstanding were the instrumental group consisting of Kostik, Baker, Savino; a vocal group of Collum, Grant, and Johnson.

"It's for English class. I'm practicing periods."

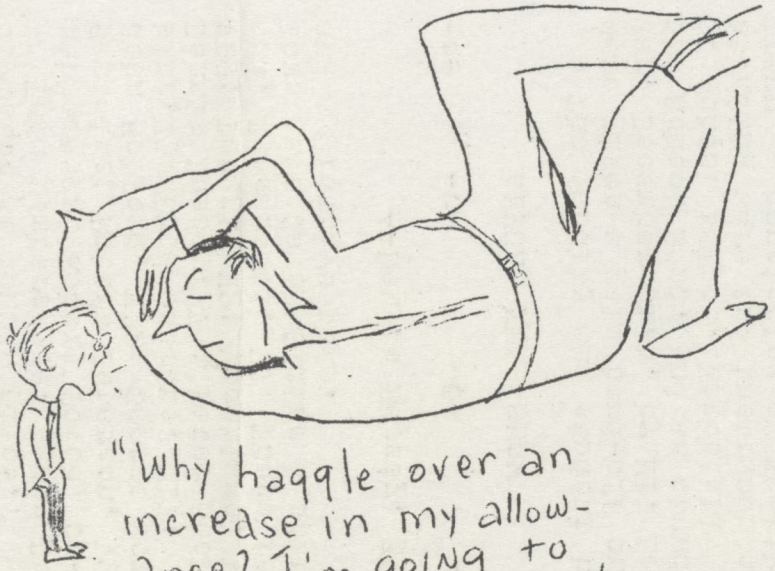
"yes, I suppose you could say I'm the Independent clause and you're the dependent clause."

"Maybe we'd better look further."



"you know Herbie there's more to being a gentleman than preferring Blondes."

"Got any good Easterns?"



"Why haggle over an increase in my allowance? I'm going to take care of you in your old age, aren't I?"